

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 24, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Joan Mier – Peace United Church of Christ

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

A proclamation for Small Business Saturday was presented on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk read a letter from Joe Shuddick, Ross Township Trustee. The Township will sponsor their Third Annual Holiday Party for children (infant to 4th grade) free for residents of Ross Township. The Holiday Party will take place at Hidden Lake Park on Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The letter requested a donation to support this event. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve a \$200 donation and there was not a second motion, therefore the request was denied.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 24, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2015. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spires presented a letter from Robinson Engineering regarding the Town acceptance approval of Mesa Ridge Subdivision. The acceptance approval is for all streets and associated improvements including the storm drainage and street lighting. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report for Public Safety.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report. Ms. Orlich announced that the Cooperative Special Recreation Initiative (CSRI) Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Ms. Orlich stated the Senior Holiday Luncheon will be Friday, December 11, 2015 at 11 a.m. She encouraged anyone interested in attending these events to call make a reservation. Ms. Orlich mentioned they are currently updating their recreations software program to expedite transactions more efficiently. They anticipate the program to be up and running by March 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: President Goralczyk had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit stated that the Redevelopment Commission Business Façade rebate program information was distributed. He requested that the members review the information and it will be discussed in an upcoming workshop. Discussion followed.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway read a letter proposing an increase to the current schedule of mowing fees to take affect the 2016 calendar year. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the requested 2016 mowing fees as well as incorporate the increased fees in an ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-31: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 15-41: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana transferring monies within the 2015 General Fund and Court Probation of the Town Court of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-42: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the Mississippi Street TIF fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-43: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, concerning the Holiday Schedule for the calendar year of 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Loricees Beauty & Barber Academy
Owner: Eric Jansen (VNE Property)
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: Beauty & Barber School
Location: 155 East 61st Avenue
Zoning: C-2 Community Commercial
Case #: Z38E11-1015
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.
Must obtain a crossover parking agreement letter from the business plaza, Broadway Place, LLC. Across 61st Avenue from the proposed beauty and barber school for students to be able to cross safely at the traffic signal.

There was discussion among the council related to this request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to table the petition until the first Town Council meeting January 2016. The petition to table was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: David & Linda Zimmer
Owner: David & Linda Zimmer
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: For raising family owned cows
Location: 800 East 101st Avenue
Zoning: R-1 Single Family Residential
Case #: Z41uV17-1115
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.
The comprehensive plan from NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) must be approved by Town Council.
Farm must be used for grazing of cows only.
Number of cattle not to exceed 40.

There was discussion among the council and the petitioner related to this request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with all conditions and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. There were multiple individuals to come forward and provide public comment regarding this petition. The public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Hardaway brought up the topic regarding the vacancies for the 2016 commissions. He stated that this information will need to be published by the deadline of December 18, 2015. Mr. Spires will take care of this request.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hardaway congratulated the Whiting Football Team on their outstanding season. They are playing Saturday, November 28, 2015 for the Class 2A State Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Mr. Pettit stated the reward was increased for the Piatak investigation. A billboard will be placed with copy related to the matter in an effort to assist the Police Department in solving this case.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services)
November 26 & 27, 2015 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, Dec. 1, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, December 4, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Town Council meeting, December 8, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made.

Tom Goralczyk, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer